(RE)IMAGINING THE WATERFRONT

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY ALONG THE WATERFRONT?

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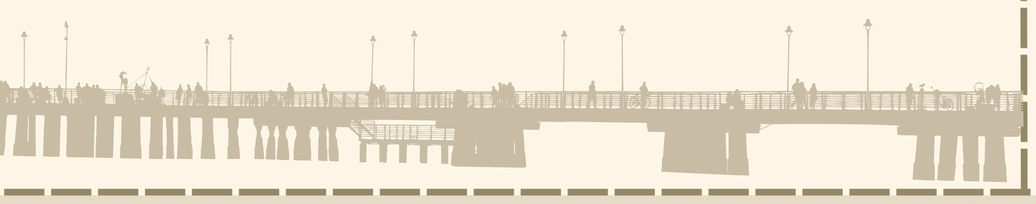
PEOPLE OBSERVED

Sites Visited

Bluffer's Park, Humber Bay Promenade Park, Sugar Beach, Harbour Square Park West, Canada Square, HTO Park, Toronto Music Garden, R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant, and Sunnyside Park

BUILT FORM AND PUBLIC LIFE

This study provides a baseline of who uses the waterfront and what are the challenges and barriers for people accessing these public spaces. This study also looks at the status of care and maintenance of these spaces and the effects this has on who utilizes them.



Age

The vast majority (**81.6%**) of those observed had an age between 18-70. Those aged 70+ represented **8.8%** observed, and those under 17 were **9.6%**.

Visible Minorities

Visible minorities made up **45.9%** of those observed.

Social Interaction and Movement

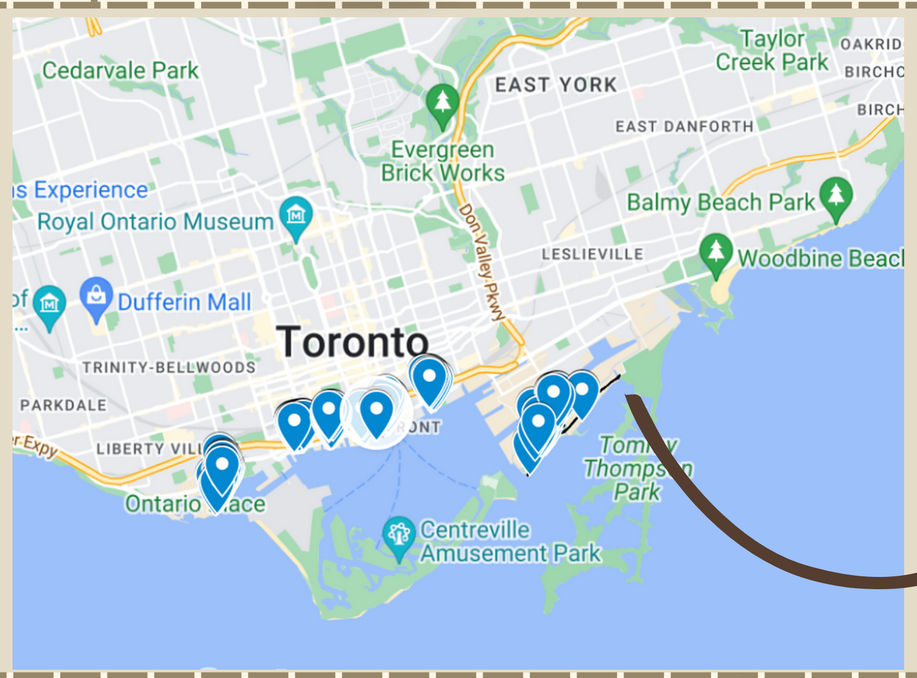
62.1% of people observed were with at least one other person. **30.5%** of participants were observed directly along the waterfront, while **69.5%** were in other areas of the parks. **80.4%** of people observed were moving, while **19.6%** were in place.

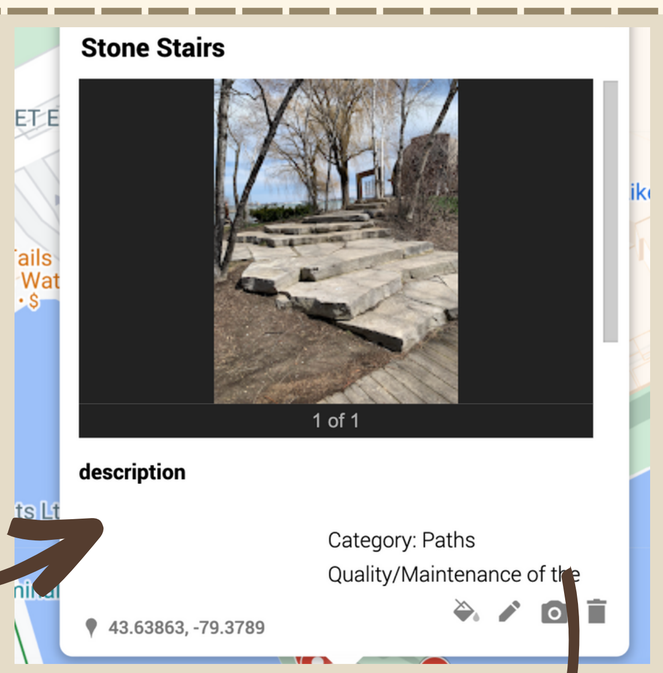
Mobility

4.8% of people observed used a visible mobility device.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Features (such as trees, benches, pathways, and transportation) along the waterfront sites were mapped out on a macro level to give an overall view of the sites. Each feature was evaluated to see how accessible it was, as well as its condition and how well-maintained it was.





METHODOLOGY

- Data was compiled by undergraduate students and was then analyzed for completeness and coded for social interaction and environmental interaction.
- Participant observation methods were used to get the initial data and to see who was using Toronto's waterfront.

ANALYSIS

- Looking at the data showed that while the proportion of people observed (4.8%) was similar to the percentage of Canadians who used mobility devices (4.1%),[1] there were still a lot of mobility challenges and features that were inaccessible.
- Furthermore, people over 70 were underrepresented at 8.8% observed, versus 12% of Toronto's population.[2] Visible minorities were also underrepresented at 45.9% observed while making up 55.7% of the population.[3]

NEXT STEPS

- Building relations with disability rights groups
- Intercept surveys and posters

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[1] Charette, Caroline, Krista L Best, Emma M Smith, William C Miller, and François Routhier. "Walking Aid Use in Canada: Prevalence and Demographic Characteristics Among Community-Dwelling Users." *Physical Therapy* 98, no. 7 (2018): 571–77. https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/pzy038.

[2] Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. "Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population Profile Table." Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Toronto, City (C) [Census subdivision], Ontario, February 1, 2023. https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&GENDERlist=1&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0&DGUIDlist=2021A00053520005&SearchText=toronto.

[3] City of Toronto. Accessed October 16, 2023. https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/8ff2-2021-Census-Backgrounder-Immigration-Ethnoracial-Mobility-Migration-Religion-FINAL1.1-corrected.pdf.